

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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In the matter of)
)
Advanced Television Systems)
and Their Impact upon the)
Existing Television Broadcast)
Service)

MM Docket No. 87-268
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

REPLY COMMENTS OF W25AW (WZBN)
AN LPTV STATION LICENSED TO TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
Serving Mercer County NJ with a daily local newscast since May 1993.

Louis A. Zaroni, Chairman
W25AW (Known As WZBN TV-25)
77 Shady Lane
Trenton, New Jersey 08619
(609) 586-6185

November 20, 1996

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*Mercer's Local
Free Broadcast
TV News Channel*

**WZBN TV 25
Administrative Offices
77 Shady Lane
Trenton, NJ 08619**

Phone: (609) 586-5088 Fax: (609) 586-8221

To: _____

Date: _____

Company: _____

From: _____

Fax #: _____

Total # of pages: _____

See us on:

UHF.....*Over the air*..... **Channel 25, 24 Hours per day**

TKR..... **Channel 25 Hamilton Twp., Washington Twp., Allentown, 24 Hours per day**

Comcast..... **Channel 19 Trenton, Lawrence, Ewing, Hopewell Boro., Pennington Boro., 10pm & 10:30pm Monday thru Friday**

Surburban/Bridge... **Channel 9 Hopewell Twp., 8pm, 10:30pm & 8am Monday thru Friday**

Surburban/Bridge... **Channel 8 Lambertville, Stockton, W. Amwell, Part of Delaware Twp., 7:30pm, 10pm, 10:30pm, 6am & 7am
Monday thru Friday**

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Serving Mercer County NJ with a daily local newscast since May 1993.

SUMMARY:

If broadcast spectrum is not made available for Low Power Television stations in heavily populated states, communities such as ours here in central New Jersey will be deprived of **FREE LOCAL broadcast television news**. The major broadcasters in New York and Philadelphia cannot possibly provide local news to each of the 21 Counties of New Jersey. LPTV stations can and will provide **FREE LOCAL broadcast television news** and information to their local communities if allowed the opportunity to do so.

The FCC's proposed DTV table of channel allotments for full power broadcasters on either side of New Jersey ignores the television needs of the residents of New Jersey. This is a major concern of the New Jersey Senate. See New Jersey Senate Resolution No. 28, (EXHIBIT "A").

If the present allotment of channels is allowed to be implemented without a dramatic change in the technical interference criteria, Low Power TV will cease to exist throughout New Jersey, depriving most of New Jersey residents of **FREE Local broadcast television news**. The cable providers will then step in and fill the gap with Pay Per View local news and deprive non cable subscribers of **FREE Local broadcast TV news**.

This trend has already begun because LPTV does not have Must Carry anywhere in New Jersey. All of New Jersey is either in the New York or Philadelphia ADI.

LOCAL BROADCAST TV NEWS IS IN JEOPARDY:

To illustrate the value of local broadcast TV news stations such as W25AW, (WZBN-- a family owned LPTV station in Trenton NJ, Hamilton Township, Mercer County) I would like to document our community's recent reaction when the local cable company attempted to remove our LPTV station from our 24 hour time slot on cable channel 25, despite a long standing written contract to carry W25AW (WZBN).

BACKGROUND:

For three and a half years TKR Cable Co. of Hamilton Township NJ, Mercer County has carried W25AW, better known as WZBN TV-25, on cable channel 25 full time 24 hours per day. WZBN has and continues to broadcast a daily newscast of people, places and events taking place in Mercer County NJ. The program is known as "The Mercer County Update". Our 20 to 25 minute local newscast begins at 7:30 p.m. each weekday evening and is repeated every 30 minutes throughout the night until 10:30 the following morning. Everyone on the TKR cable system (as well as the local UHF viewers) has numerous opportunities to see the local TV news regardless of their work or sleep schedule. This format has been very successful. Only a Low Power TV

station could afford to undertake such a dramatic program schedule. This is what will be lost if community minded LPTV stations are forced off the air.

TKR CABLE THREATENS TO REMOVE LPTV NEWS STATION:

In August of 1996 the TKR Cable Co. of Hamilton Township NJ announced that they were going to remove WZBN, the local news channel, from cable channel 25 and replace it with the new FOX news channel beginning October 8, 1996 and position WZBN (a low power TV station with no carriage rights except for a written contract) on a PEG channel on a part time basis. This reduction of air time on the cable system of 30,000 subscribers would force WZBN out of business. Advertising is our sole source of income. Our local advertisers would not continue to pay the same daily advertising rate for a dramatically reduced number of commercial spots.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE:

To illustrate the local public response to TKR's threatened removal of WZBN from their full time channel to a part time channel, I have included a variety of newspaper clippings (EXHIBIT "B"), personally written letters to TKR (EXHIBIT "C"), municipal resolutions (EXHIBIT "D"), letters to editors of local newspapers (EXHIBIT "E") and petitions (EXHIBIT "F"), for WZBN to remain full time on the TKR cable system. Following is a brief chronological listing of some events.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| August 22, 1996 | Trenton Times newspaper headline
"TKR to Bounce Hamilton Station from Cable Slot" |
| August 23, 1996 | Mercer County Freeholders passed a resolution
supporting the continuation of the 24 hour programming
schedule of WZBN. |

- August 24, 1996** Protesters support local news channel 25 in front of TKR cable office.
- August 30, 1996** The Mercer County Latino Chamber of Commerce organizes a protest in support of WZBN in front of TKR cable office.
- Sept. 4, 1996** Hamilton Township Council "Rips TKR Action" and passed a resolution urging TKR to keep WZBN in its current slot and schedule on channel 25.
- Sept. 13, 1996** Washington Township condemns TKR action. "WZBN is a valuable voice in our township community" and passed a resolution opposing the decision of TKR cable Co. to cut WZBN from 24 hours per day to about one hour.
- Sept. 9, 1996** Trenton City Mayor and Council President lend support to WZBN. Mayor Palmer--"Without WZBN we lose one of the most critical means of communication and public information in the capital city area".
- Sept. 20, 1996** WZBN seeks court order to prevent TKR Cable from replacing WZBN with the FOX news channel.
- October 2, 1996** Lawrence Township passed a resolution urging TKR to continue to broadcast WZBN on cable channel 25 in its current format and time frame and encourages Comcast Cable (of Lawrence Township) to expand Lawrence Township coverage of WZBN.
- October 3, 1996** Trenton City Council passed a resolution supporting the efforts of local TV news channel WZBN to retain a 24 hour programming schedule on the TKR cable system of Hamilton.

October 4, 1996 WZBN received a temporary injunction blocking TKR Cable Co. from slashing the hours it carries WZBN Broadcasts and from moving it to a different channel. (The temporary injunction is still in effect as of the date of this filing.)

In addition to all of the municipal resolutions, protest demonstrations and political endorsements supporting the local news format of WZBN, numerous letters, phone calls and petitions were sent to the TKR General Manager and Company President asking them to reconsider their decision to replace the local news channel with another national news channel. All of them expressed the value and need for local television news and urged TKR to keep the LPTV station WZBN on the air full time.

Over 200 individually written letters were sent to TKR in support of WZBN. The following is a sampling of those letters. (See EXHIBIT "C")

- **Senator Bill Bradley (D) NJ**
- **Congressman Christopher Smith (R) NJ**
- **The local president of the United Way**
- **The American Red Cross, local office**
- **The Hamilton Township Board of Education**
- **The Latino Chamber of Commerce of Mercer County, NJ**
- **The Mercer County Sheriff**
- **Mercer County Labor Union Council, AFL-CIO**
- **Hamilton Township Jaycees**
- **Trenton Municipal Court**
- **Board of Fire Commissioners**
- **Kuser School PTA**
- **New Jersey State Policeman's Benevolent Association**
- **Washington Township Committeeman**
- **New Jersey Supervisor of Public Education**
- **Andrea Spellman---11 years old**
- **Mrs. Rose H. Leming--Cable viewer**

Five separate municipalities passing resolutions supporting WZBN:
(EXHIBIT "D")

**Mercer County Freeholders
Trenton City
Hamilton Township
Lawrence Township
Washington Township**

Numerous letters-to-the-Editor were sent to local newspapers.
(EXHIBIT "E")

Petitions, Petitions, and more Petitions---over 5,000 local residents signed petitions and group letters in support of a full time channel for WZBN. (EXHIBIT "F")

I have listed only a portion of the tremendous outpouring of support from the viewers of a our LPTV station that produces a daily 25 minute newscast of events taking place in their Central New Jersey community.

This outpouring of public support illustrates the value of local LPTV news stations and the need to maintain and enhance the opportunity for LPTV broadcasters in the larger urban markets.

TKR Cable Co. has totally ignored the public outcry for LOCAL news as seen on WZBN, a Low Power (No Power) TV station.

PROBLEMS & POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

CREATE A NEW CLASS OF PERMANENT STATIONS

PROBLEM: The future for LPTV stations in major TV markets is very uncertain. If the Sixth Further Notice of the proposed rule is adopted, numerous small communities within the major urban TV markets may never have the opportunity to view first hand their own local news events, such as: elections, high school/college sports, business, social and community activities. Many LPTV stations have dedicated them selves to meeting the needs of the small local communities they serve within the major urban TV markets. There is a solution for this problem.

DISCUSSION: When FCC established LPTV as a secondary broadcast service, secondary status effectively meant that issues of signal interference were decided in favor of full service television broadcasters. For the first 15 years of this service, some stations had to redirect their signals, others had to find another frequency but fewer than 10 actually went dark. The abundance of spectrum was a key factor in minimizing hardship with this policy.

FCC recognizes the fact that there are a number of serious LPTV broadcasters who provide an important community service to local ethnic and charitable groups while maintaining a positive programming schedule for all residents of their service area. These broadcasters provide not only diversity and strength in their programming but also provide many direct economic benefits to their communities, including diversity in ownership. While these benefits are documented and recognized, the business climate for LPTV broadcasters has been destroyed. As seen with the DTV rule-making, secondary status has evolved into a practice whereby the government is free to place

any public policy objective it wants to pursue ahead of any LPTV broadcaster's rights to continued use of his/her authorized and licensed broadcast spectrum.

There's much evidence that many at the FCC sincerely want to preserve and foster LPTV broadcasting that specializes in meeting the needs of underserved communities, and provides other positive and local programming not readily available through other sources. The apparent tragedy is that there was absolutely nothing in the FCC's digital allotment scheme, that was designed to pursue these objectives. The results are that digital allotments pull the plug on some of the finest LPTV stations in the country because FCC didn't develop any type of safety mechanism to avoid them.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: FCC needs to develop a new class of permanent stations dedicated to providing local broadcast television to underserved urban and rural communities.

There is no distinction between low power or high power radio stations, why should there be a distinction between low power and high power TV stations.

ADJACENT CHANNEL RESTRICTIONS

PROBLEM: Current transmitter power restrictions on LPTV's operations preclude use of most adjacent channel opportunities, leaving unused much UHF spectrum. This problem has a solution.

DISCUSSION: Adjacent channels are exactly what they seem to be: one channel up or down from another channel. Current FCC regulations provide a maximum of 15dB

difference between adjacent channels. Any dB difference greater than 15 has the effect of the higher powered stations (signal) overwhelming the signals of the lower power station in the immediate service area. There is also a strange dichotomy between the requirements of full service and LPTV broadcasters. Full service broadcasters have FCC limited effective radiation powers (ERP's) but no limits on power. On the other hand, LPTV broadcasters have FCC limited maximum transmitter power but no limits on ERP. With an abundance of spectrum this has never been a significant issue. But with the new DTV allotments and possible auctioning of channels 60-69, there is a premium for every small part of remaining broadcast spectrum. For some LPTV's, the only opportunity to survive with DTV allotments will be co-location or at least near co-location with full service stations. The current power restrictions on LPTV broadcasters of 10 watts for VHF and 1,000 watts UHF preclude such close location to full service stations.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: Allow LPTV stations to increase their power to the level required to maintain a 15 dB relationships with full service stations in their broadcast area. This solution has the effect of making many adjacent channels available to LPTV broadcasters reducing, by a significant level, the number of LPTV casualties from DTV allotments.

SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFY CURRENT UHF TABOOS

PROBLEM: In addition to the 15 dB signal strength limitation for adjacent channels, there are a number of other UHF "taboo" channels that significantly restrict use of the UHF spectrum. The current taboos are overly strict and reduce the opportunity for LPTV stations to relocate, when they are displaced by DTV allotments. This problem does have a solution.

DISCUSSION: FCC will not approve a channel reassigned to a displaced LPTV broadcaster if that channel has a +7 relationship to an existing NTSC licensee in the same service area. This is referred to as the "oscillator" taboo. Applications are also denied if the channel relationship is a -14 to an existing NTSC licensee. This is known as the "aural image" taboo. Intermodulation taboos are even more significant because they include both + and - relationships of 2,3,4, & 5 channel separation. While it appears that there is a huge amount of UHF spectrum available for television broadcasting, these taboos considerably restrict access to this spectrum in most market areas. While LPTV licensees are delighted with FCC's willingness to set aside a few frequencies between channels 52-59 for LPTV broadcasting, the current strict adherence to UHF taboos greatly reduce the value of such a reservation. Recent tests in NYC and other places show that these taboos do not create the level of interference predicted by the theoretical model--and frequently the result shows no significant level of interference.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: Allow displaced LPTV's broadcasters to be relocated to current oscillator, aural image and intermodulation channels, at their own risk. Risk means that if any relocated LPTV station becomes a source of intolerable interference to the viewers of the full service broadcasters, the LPTV station would have to discontinue or change its operations accordingly. If the administration is serious about helping LPTV broadcasters survive this interim period of digital transition, it will relax these taboo restrictions and assist displaced LPTV broadcasters in securing alternative broadcast spectrum.

ESTABLISH EQUITABLE INTERFERENCE ALLOWANCES

PROBLEM: Under current FCC rules, issuance of full service licenses or modifications to existing licenses is predicated on a certain tolerable level of interference with other full service broadcasters. The commission maintains a "zero tolerance" for interference from Low Power broadcasters. This zero tolerance policy has the effect of eliminating many channel opportunities that would be available for displaced LPTV broadcasters if, issuance or modification of LPTV licenses were predicated on the same standards as full service broadcasters. This problem has a solution.

DISCUSSION: The only actual and/or meaningful difference between full service and low power broadcasters is their signal strength. As stated in the discussion on adjacent channel restrictions, full service broadcasters have no power limitations while LPTV stations are limited to 10 watts on VHF channels and 1,000 watts on UHF channels. The difference in power has no effect, however, on the type of interference caused by either broadcaster.

The FCC has historically allowed interference in the grade B contours of full service broadcasters for very practical reasons. A zero tolerance would create such large protected areas that it would greatly reduce the number of full service stations permitted in many television service areas. Since the commission is by DTV policy doubling the use of the TV broadcast spectrum and simultaneously reducing the amount of available broadcast spectrum, it is timely for the commission to change the zero tolerance policy for LPTV licensees.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: The commission should discontinue the zero tolerance policy for LPTV broadcasters and apply standards similar to those for full service television. In the final analysis, interference is an issue of households and TV viewers, not an issue of full service versus LPTV broadcasters. Application of similar tolerance standards is not only appropriate, but necessary to save numerous LPTV broadcasters during digital transition.

It has been the expressed goal of Congress and the FCC to create competition and diversity in TV broadcasting. The proposed Sixth Further Notice of rules and policies is in conflict with those goals. The LPTV stations of this country can and will provide a diversity of local programming if allowed an equal playing field.

CONCLUSION:

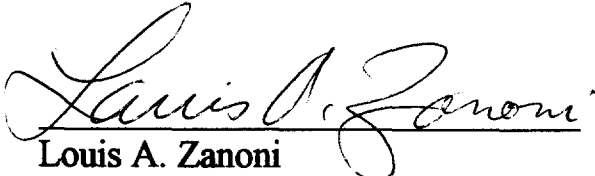
If special provisions are not made for community minded LPTV stations our Country will be left only with major TV networks and cable conglomerates that do not and cannot provide the FREE local news of local elections, local high school sports , student academic achievements, local business news and local social and charitable events.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, this petitioner respectfully requests that the commission revise the rules and policies proposed in the Sixth Further Notice to, as described above, incorporate the following revisions:

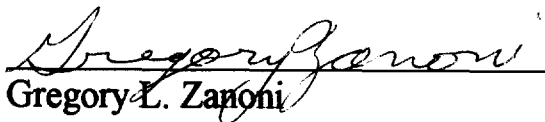
1. Create a new class of permanent LPTV stations that provide a valuable community service.
2. Adopt Community Broadcasters Association (CBA) technical Proposals.

- a) Create a new class of permanent LPTV stations
 - b) Allow LPTV stations to increase their power
 - c) Significantly modify current UHF taboos
 - d) Discontinue zero tolerance policy
3. Grandfather in those LPTV stations that have a record of valuable community service.
4. Strongly urge the Commission to revise its DTV standard and provide that all stations on channel 2-50 return to their NTSC channel on the date of digital conversion.

Respectfully submitted,



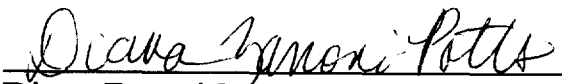
Louis A. Zaroni
Chairman, (W25AW) WZBN TV-25
WZBN TV-25, Inc.
77 Shady Lane
Trenton, NJ 08619



Gregory L. Zaroni
President



Doreen Zaroni-Damico
Secretary, Treasurer



Diana Zaroni-Potts
Director

Reply Comments of
W25AW (WZBN TV-25)
November 20, 1996

EXHIBIT "A"

New Jersey Senate Resolution No. 28

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 28

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 9, 1996

The Senate Transportation Committee favorably reports Senate Resolution No. 28 with committee amendments.

As amended, this Senate Resolution urges the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation to grant "Must Carry" rights for Low Power Television (LPTV) stations within the State of New Jersey when those stations broadcast local news and community information on a regular basis and to ensure the preservation of LPTV service during and after the transition from analog to digital television.

LPTV stations provide television coverage of local news and community information. There are seven independent licensed LPTV stations and three New Jersey Network (NJN) Low Power Television repeaters on the air in New Jersey and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has authorized the construction of 16 more independent stations and three construction permits for NJN in the State. However, LPTV stations do not enjoy the same right as full power stations to be carried on local cable systems under the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Further, while the FCC is planning the transition from analog to digital television broadcasting, it has not made transitional arrangements for LPTV stations. As such, it is vital that federal legislation be passed granting "Must Carry" rights for LPTV stations for the regions they serve within the State and ensuring the preservation of Low Power Television after the transition to digital broadcasting.

The committee amended the resolution to clarify and update its provisions.

[First Reprint]

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 28

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 14, 1996

By Senator INVERSO

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION encouraging the New Jersey Congressional
2 Delegation to support federal legislation providing for greater local
3 television coverage for the State of New Jersey.

4
5 WHEREAS, The residents of New Jersey have a strong desire to
6 receive television coverage of local news and information '[of]
7 concerning' their immediate community; and

8 WHEREAS, The small number of full power television stations
9 allocated to the State of New Jersey is inadequate to meet the
10 television coverage needs of the State; and

11 WHEREAS, There are '[five] seven' licensed Low Power Television
12 (LPTV) stations 'and three New Jersey Network (NJN) Low
13 Power Television repeaters' on the air, which cover local news and
14 community information, and the Federal Communications
15 Commission (FCC) has authorized the construction of 16
16 '[additional] more independent' LPTV stations 'and three
17 construction permits for NJN' in the State of New Jersey; and

18 WHEREAS, LPTV stations do not have the right, enjoyed by full
19 power stations, to be carried on the local cable systems within New
20 Jersey because of a provision in the Cable Television Consumer
21 Protection and Competition Act of 1992, which limits "Must Carry"
22 'rights' to LPTV stations outside the largest 160 Metropolitan
23 Statistical Areas and communities of license with populations less
24 than 35,000; and

25 WHEREAS, The cable operators of New Jersey have been very
26 reluctant to carry LPTV stations unless legally compelled to do so,
27 even when LPTV stations are broadcasting local news and
28 community information; and

29 WHEREAS, This provision in the federal law and the conduct of cable
30 systems severely hamper the ability of LPTV stations to provide
31 local news and community information desired by residents of New

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate STR committee amendments adopted May 9, 1996.

1 Jersey; and

2 WHEREAS, The FCC is planning the transition of television
3 broadcasting from analog to digital but has not provided for the
4 same transition for LPTV stations, and the FCC's failure to preserve
5 LPTV service during and after the transition to digital broadcasting
6 threatens the future of the local news and community information
7 provided by those stations to the State of New Jersey; and

8 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper for this House to urge
9 the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to introduce and support
10 legislation to grant "Must Carry" rights for LPTV stations 'for the
11 regions they serve' within the State of New Jersey when those
12 stations broadcast local news and community information on a
13 regular basis and to ensure the preservation of LPTV service during
14 and after the transition from analog to digital television, as such
15 legislation will greatly benefit the citizens of the State of New
16 Jersey; now, therefore,

17

18 BE IT RESOLVED *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

19

20 1. The New Jersey Congressional Delegation is urged to introduce
21 and support legislation to grant "Must Carry" rights for Low Power
22 Television stations 'for the regions they serve' within the State of
23 New Jersey when those stations broadcast local news and community
24 information on a regular basis and to ensure the preservation of Low
25 Power Television service during and after the transition from analog
26 to digital television.

27

28 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
29 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be
30 transmitted to each member of Congress elected thereto from this
31 State.

32

33

34

35

36 Urges NJ Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation
37 providing for greater local television coverage.

Reply Comments of
W25AW (WZBN TV-25)
November 20, 1996

EXHIBIT "B"

Community Involvement Newspaper Clippings

THURSDAY
AUGUST 22, 1996

SUNNY, HOT
High 90, Low 70
Details/A2

25 Cents

The Times

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

FOREIGN HOLDINGS
Reform Party candidate Ross Perot
has \$450M in overseas bonds A13

FEELING MAGICAL
Thunder magic number at 2 for
clinching EL South title B1

TKR to bounce Hamilton station from cable slot

By JEFF SAGNIP HOLLENDONNER
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — The township's local television station, WZBN, is getting pushed out of its current time slot by TKR Cable Co. to make way for the Fox Network 24-hour news show.

But WZBN officials vow it won't happen without a fight.

"This will definitely put us out of business," WZBN president Greg Zanoni said yesterday. "But we're going to fight with everything we have."

TKR plans to cut WZBN's broadcast from 24-hours-a-day on Channel 25 to about one hour on Channel 8, the cable company's local program channel. WZBN sells advertising throughout the 24-hour day, Zanoni said. Without that advertising, the station would go bankrupt in short

order, he said.

"It would be impossible for us to generate enough revenue to support a news crew and keep the station on the air," Zanoni said. "We're looking for public support to show them this is a channel the public wants. If the people want it, TKR should put it on."

TKR's decision comes four months after TKR won approval from the Board of Public Utilities to be the

exclusive cable provider for Hamilton's 80,000 residents.

The township council approved the 10-year TKR contract in January.

Zanoni said the station plans to sue TKR, if necessary, to keep the station's airtime intact.

"We have a contract with TKR," Zanoni said. "We built everything on that contract. We are talking to our attorneys to see what can be done."

THE CONTRACT explicitly says TKR will carry WZBN in any franchise agreement, Zanoni said, so long as WZBN provides a significant amount of local programming of interest to the customers of TKR.

TKR still has not officially informed WZBN of the switch, Zanoni said, nor offered any explanation. He found out when a customer showed him an insert in a monthly billing that gave notice of the change.

"We're not sure why they're taking us off," Zanoni said. "They haven't said we're doing a good job or a bad job. They haven't said anything."

Zanoni said he was willing to change the station's format by adding programs if that is what TKR wants. He said some 50 percent of the people in the county watch

• see CABLE, A8

Schools getting crowded

Enrollment swelling
in N.J., study finds

Going with the flow



School chief leaving city

Venable to announce retirement

...a free man while he appeals
lay jail sentence for driving
suspended license, police offi-
aid.

ile Morgan prepares to appeal
ecision to a Mercer County Su-
Court judge, Trenton Public
Director James Waldron said
epartment is reviewing Mor-
record to determine whether
ll keep his job.

rgan, who has been on the
since the spring of 1995, was
need Wednesday by a Ewing
cipal court judge for being
it driving with a suspended li-
June 6, police said.

am obviously concerned with

by a Ewing municipal
court judge for being
caught driving with a
suspended license June
6, police said.

the finding of his guilt," Waldron
said. "I feel that police officers and
firefighters and public safety offi-
cials should be held to a high stan-
dard of conduct.

"Driving with a suspended license
is not appropriate, and neither is
having a suspended license to begin
with."

Waldron said that due to the con-

summer concerning the Trenton Po-
lice Department and driving infrac-
tions.

Trenton Patrolman Ka-El Damone
Jordan had his driver's license in
Kansas suspended because he failed
to pay a speeding ticket that was is-
sued on Aug. 8, 1994, said Sheila
Walker, a spokeswoman for the
Kansas Department of Revenue.

Because New Jersey and Kansas
have an agreement to share and
transfer driver records and penalty
points, Jordan's New Jersey license
was also invalidated, a spokes-
woman with the New Jersey Divi-
sion of Motor Vehicles said.

Jordan has yet to complete his
probationary first year on the force.

source and composition of the waste
have all changed," Wolfe said.

Representatives of the Delaware
Riverkeeper Network submitted
written comments noting that the

the Mercer County Board of Chosen
Freeholders.

"Based on what I have heard to-
day, I don't see why we can't meet
that date," O'Sullivan said.

Freeholders express support for WZBN

TRENTON — The Mercer County
Freeholders last night lent their sup-
port to WZBN, a local television sta-
tion getting pushed out of its cur-
rent time slot by TKR Cable Co.

The cable company is making way
for a Fox Network 24-hour news
show by cutting WZBN's broadcast
from 24-hours-a-day on Channel 25
to about one hour on Channel 8.

The freeholders passed a resolu-
tion supporting the continuation of
the 24-hour program and urging
TKR Cable to keep the WZBN con-
tract in tact.

Board members cited the televi-
sion company's contribution to the
community, especially its Mercer's
Most Wanted show which broad-
casts the names and faces of wanted

criminals.

"That spot is very good for the
community," said Board President
Anthony Carabelli. "I think every
opportunity that program has to air
increases the opportunity of appre-
hending folks that need to be appre-
hended."

In other business last night the
freeholders adopted a resolution pe-
titioning the governor and state leg-
islators to review and enact revi-
sions in the state school busing
limits.

The board joins local towns in ar-
guing that the state should consider
the safety of school routes, not just
distance, in determining which stu-
dents get bused to school.

...r named to Dem platform committee

new Jersey State Democratic
nittee at its statewide conven-
n June 1996.

ck-Ponder said she is honored
present Princeton and New Jer-
t the national convention.

is a great opportunity to partic-
in the development of national
y and an important guide for
s who seek some insight into
the Democratic party will gov-
said Tuck-Ponder.

As one of only 120 mayors nation-
wide to participate in the conven-
tion, Tuck-Ponder will join the Na-
tional Conference of Democratic
Mayors in a variety of convention
activities.

These include a convention cau-
cus scheduled for Monday from 10
to 11:30 a.m. at the Chicago Hilton.

Tuck-Ponder has also been re-
cruited to videotape a variety of
convention activities by News 12
New Jersey.

She will carry a portable video
camera and compile a "convention
journal" which will be broadcast on
that channel on Aug. 30.

Tuck-Ponder is currently serving
as township mayor for the second
year. She is seeking a second term
on the township committee this fall.

Tuck-Ponder is an attorney who is
currently employed as the president
of Ponder Literary Properties in
New Brunswick.

Protesters support all-news station

By KIM HABAN
The Trentonian

HAMILTON — Area cable subscribers rallied outside the TKR offices yesterday afternoon to protest a move that will force WZBN, the 24-hour local news channel, out of business.

Chants of "ZBN, ZBN" coming from about 30 protesters could be heard inside the cable company's lobby, where TKR officials stressed the value of local programming and insisted WZBN could survive under the change.

TKR's plan is to move WZBN from Channel 25 to Channel 8 and cut its broadcasting time by almost 90 percent by allowing the station three half-hour slots.

The FOX News network is slated to take WZBN's slot beginning Oct. 8.

Right now, WZBN broadcasts 24 hours a day with a local newscast every half hour between 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. during the week.

During the off hours and on weekends, WZBN broadcasts an all-news program with national and international coverage.

The station, with eight employees, sells advertising for the entire 24-hour time slot, allowing it to survive financially.

"This change," said WZBN president Gregory Zanoni, "will put us out of business."

TKR officials, however, criticized the channel's format and refused to acknowledge the hardship it faces.

"It's very repetitive," said TKR spokeswoman Lori Pritchett about WZBN. "We're replacing it with 17 hours of live programming."

"Our intention is not to put them out of business," Pritchett said. "I don't know this will." Cable subscribers yesterday threatened to drop TKR if it abandons WZBN.

"If you guys are taking it off, I'm getting a satellite dish," Bill Gerhauser said as he walked into the office to pick up a new cable box. "I like the station. For a dollar a day I can get a mini dish."

Gerhauser said he likes WZBN because he can watch it late at night, when it's convenient for him.

"That's what's really been a success for us," said Zanoni. "Everybody gets a chance to watch the local news."

WZBN received a wide range of support from local residents and politicians to county officials and state legislators.

"That really makes us feel good," Zanoni said. "We'd like the people to be the determining factor in whether we have a channel."



Trentonian Photo/GREGG SLABODA
WZBN fans show their support for the cable TV station as they protest a TKR plan that might put the local news channel out of business.

Boxer, NBA player side with WZBN

■ Supporters of the all-news station drafted the athletes to join the protest against TKR plans that would force the station out of business.

By KIM HABAN
The Trentonian

HAMILTON — Supporters of local news channel WZBN drafted some heavy hitters to help rescue the family-run station from extinction.

Top-ranked Trenton boxer Bryant "BB" Brannon joined about 40 protesters in front of the TKR cable offices yesterday afternoon to show the private business they will not tolerate the elimination of WZBN.

"I'm ready to fight the full 12-round fight," Brannon said. "I'm ready to knock out TKR if they don't leave ZBN alone." TKR's plan is to move WZBN from Channel 25 to Channel 8 and to cut its broadcasting time by almost 95 percent by allowing them three half-hour slots.

The FOX News network is slated to take WZBN's slot beginning Oct. 8.

Right now, WZBN broadcasts 24 hours a day with a local newscast every half hour between 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. during the week.

During the off hours and on weekends, WZBN broadcasts an all-news program with national and international coverage.

The station, with eight employees, sells advertising for the entire 24-hour time slot, allowing them to survive financially.

TKR's plan to slash WZBN's broadcasting time will force the station to fold, said President Gregory Zanoni.

Members of the Latino Chamber of Commerce, organizers of the hour-long rally, threatened to can TKR if it bagged WZBN.

"If TKR is only interested in making money, we will encourage our friends and families, who are currently paying cable bills to TKR, to pull the plug on TKR," said Rosa Rosado, spokeswoman. "If TKR says no to WZBN-TV 25, we will be forced to just say no to TKR."

Greg Grant, NBA point guard, who most recently played for the Denver Nuggets, applauded Rosado. Grant, of Hamilton, was invited to the protest by the Chamber of Commerce.

"If they're taking away one of my best cable stations," Grant said. "Then I don't want to pay for it."

"It (WZBN) is a great program," Grant said. "When I see Mercer County's Most Wanted, I have a wife and kids, that's the information we need."

Also on hand was Trenton Deputy Police Chief and Mercer County Freeholder Joe Constance, a champion of the Most Wanted show.

"TKR needs to have a community sense and give something back," Constance said. "Come on, TKR, wake up. I hope it's not a done deal."

Yet TKR spokespeople, who lurked in the background during the rally, said the switch is imminent.

"There are no plans to keep it on Channel 25," said Spokesman Ron Wolff. But, "We are very confident a mutual agreement can be reached."

As their lawyers negotiate, Zanoni, who points out that TKR and WZBN do have a contract, is not as confident.

"If it's not a 24-hour channel then they're not going to let us survive," Zanoni said. "Luckily the morale of our whole staff has been pretty good, but they don't know the future of their jobs. I don't know my future."

TRENTON WEATHER

Yesterday thru 7 p.m.: High 82, low 64, precipitation none.

Air Quality The pollution index for yesterday was a 66 on a scale of 0-500, which is moderate. The main pollutant was ozone caused by auto emissions.



Patchy fog early, then sunshine.

High 80.



Mostly clear and cool.

Low 56.



TOMORROW:

Abundant sunshine and delightful.
High 78. Low 56.



SUNDAY:

Sunshine and some high clouds.
High 80. Low 62.



MONDAY:

Increasing cloudiness.

High 82. Low 64.

SUN AND MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:24 a.m.	6:25 a.m.
Sunset	7:33 p.m.	7:32 p.m.
Length of Day	13:20 hrs.	13:15 hrs.
Moonrise	8:43 p.m.	9:20 p.m.
Moonset	8:31 a.m.	9:41 a.m.

Last New First Full



Sep. 4 Sep. 12 Sep. 20 Sep. 28

NATIONAL TEMPERATURES

Friday			Friday		
City	Hi	Lo W	City	Hi	Lo W
Albany	77	50 s	Houston	80	73 sh
Albuquerque	86	64 pc	Indianapolis	83	69 s
Annapolis	82	62 s	Kansas City	86	64 s
Atlanta	85	68 pc	Little Rock	86	67 pc
Atlantic City	78	64 s	Los Angeles	94	70 s
Austin	86	71 t	Miami	90	73 pc
Baltimore	84	58 s	Minneapolis-St Paul	82	62 s
Birmingham	87	66 pc	Montpelier	70	44 s
Bismarck	92	60 s	Nashville	87	66 s
Boise	94	57 s	New Orleans	86	72 sh
Boston	76	59 s	Oklahoma City	84	65 pc
Buffalo	76	53 s	Philadelphia	82	62 s
Charleston	85	59 s	Phoenix	105	83 s
Chicago	80	58 s	Pittsburgh	82	56 s
Cincinnati	83	62 s	Portland, OR	74	56 c
Columbia	86	64 s	Providence	76	55 s
Columbus	83	58 s	Raleigh	87	63 s
Dallas	84	68 t	Richmond	85	63 s
Denver	72	52 sh	Sacramento	98	69 s
Des Moines	84	59 s	St. Louis	86	65 s
Detroit	80	58 s	San Francisco	74	55 pc
Dover	82	64 s	Salt Lake City	93	62 s
Harrisburg	80	55 s	Seattle	70	55 c
Hartford	79	52 s	Tallahassee	89	68 c
Honolulu	91	74 s	Washington	84	64 s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



Yor
82/51

NEW YORK CITY
clear tonight. Low 62.
PHILADELPHIA
tonight. Low 62.
SHORE: Mostly 66. Surf 70-74.

TANNING INDEX
A rating of 1 to 10, cloudy day and 10

for Trenton through

Temperature

Yesterday's high

Record high

Yesterday's low

Record low

Normal range

High last year

Low last year

Precipitation in

Yesterday

Month to date

Normal, mo. to date

Year to date

Normal, yr. to date

